

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

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California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.9 Percent

NOTE TO EDITORS: Data contained in this news release have been updated using the March 2007 benchmark and differ from previously issued statistics. This is an annual revision process mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor.

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in January, unchanged from a revised 5.9 percent in December, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in January 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California declined by 20,300 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,150,700.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in January was 17,219,000. This was a decrease of 21,000 from December, but up 60,000 from the employment total in January of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,079,000 – unchanged over the month, but up by 182,000 compared with January of last year.

Of the unemployed, 516,700 were laid off, 115,800 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 480,858 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the January survey week. This compares with 451,098 last month and 355,962 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 57,364 in January 2008, compared with 56,984 in December and 43,788 in January of last year.

(more)

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,150,700 in January, a net loss of 20,300 jobs since the December survey. This followed a gain of 11,400 jobs (as revised) in December.

Five of the categories (**natural resources and mining; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 25,200 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities showed the largest gain, up by 10,900 jobs. Six categories (**construction; information; financial activities; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services**) reported job declines this month, down 45,500 jobs. Information posted the largest decline over the month, down by 25,100 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (January 2007 to January 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 14,900 jobs (up 0.1 percent).

Six industry divisions (**trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 156,500 jobs. On a numerical basis, government showed the strongest employment growth, adding 50,200 jobs (a 2.0 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, educational and health services showed the strongest gain, up 2.6 percent (adding 42,800 jobs).

Four categories (**construction; manufacturing; information; and financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 141,600 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 69,300 jobs (a decline of 7.6 percent). One category, **natural resources and mining**, had no change over the year.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, no industries recorded non-seasonally adjusted gains. **Trade, transportation and utilities** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 100,700 jobs. Most of the losses were in the retail trade sector, which declined by 82,500 jobs following the end of the holiday shopping season.

Government reported the largest gain over the year, up 49,500 jobs. The gains were centered in local and state government, which were up by 37,900 jobs and 14,600 jobs, respectively. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 60,500 jobs. The losses were mainly in specialty trade contractors, down 45,500 jobs, and construction of buildings, down 10,800 jobs.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA
(Amounts in thousands)

| Industrial Classification | January 2008 (prelim.) | December 2007 | January 2007 | Change Over 12 months (Percent) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers | 15,150.7 | 15,171.0 | 15,135.8 | 0.1 |
| Natural resources and mining | 25.9 | 25.5 | 25.9 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 843.2 | 856.0 | 912.5 | -7.6 |
| Manufacturing | 1,452.2 | 1,452.1 | 1,475.8 | -1.6 |
| Trade, transportation and utilities | 2,919.2 | 2,908.3 | 2,908.9 | 0.4 |
| Information | 449.9 | 475.0 | 463.3 | -2.9 |
| Financial activities | 885.9 | 887.1 | 921.2 | -3.8 |
| Professional and business services | 2,286.4 | 2,276.4 | 2,253.0 | 1.5 |
| Educational and health services | 1,685.3 | 1,686.6 | 1,642.5 | 2.6 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 1,560.4 | 1,561.9 | 1,545.5 | 1.0 |
| Other services | 515.1 | 518.7 | 510.2 | 1.0 |
| Government* | 2,527.2 | 2,523.4 | 2,477.0 | 2.0 |
| Agriculture | 396.0 | 394.2 | 383.3 | 3.3 |

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

| | January 2008 (prelim.) | December 2007 | November 2007 | January 2007 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Civilian labor force ^a | 18,298,000 | 18,319,000 | 18,288,000 | 18,056,000 |
| Total civilian employment | 17,219,000 | 17,240,000 | 17,238,000 | 17,159,000 |
| Unemployment | 1,079,000 | 1,079,000 | 1,050,000 | 897,000 |
| Seasonally adjusted rate % | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.0 |
| US seasonally adjusted rate % | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.6 |

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

| | January 2008 (prelim.) | December 2007 | November 2007 | January 2007 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Civilian labor force ^a | 18,244,000 | 18,352,000 | 18,342,000 | 18,064,000 |
| Total civilian employment | 17,086,000 | 17,272,000 | 17,321,000 | 17,078,000 |
| Unemployment | 1,158,000 | 1,080,000 | 1,021,000 | 986,000 |
| Unadjusted rate % | 6.3 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.5 |

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
JANUARY 2008; 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

| COUNTY | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOYMENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | RATE |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| STATE TOTAL | 18,244,000 | 17,085,800 | 1,158,200 | 6.3% |
| ALAMEDA | 756,700 | 717,300 | 39,400 | 5.2% |
| ALPINE | 770 | 720 | 50 | 6.0% |
| AMADOR | 18,230 | 16,860 | 1,370 | 7.5% |
| BUTTE | 104,100 | 95,500 | 8,600 | 8.2% |
| CALAVERAS | 21,120 | 19,310 | 1,810 | 8.6% |
| COLUSA | 10,380 | 8,350 | 2,030 | 19.6% |
| CONTRA COSTA | 528,000 | 499,700 | 28,300 | 5.4% |
| DEL NORTE | 11,460 | 10,460 | 1,000 | 8.7% |
| EL DORADO | 95,800 | 89,600 | 6,200 | 6.5% |
| FRESNO | 433,800 | 388,200 | 45,600 | 10.5% |
| GLENN | 12,510 | 11,090 | 1,420 | 11.3% |
| HUMBOLDT | 61,300 | 56,800 | 4,500 | 7.3% |
| IMPERIAL | 69,500 | 58,000 | 11,500 | 16.5% |
| INYO | 9,480 | 8,890 | 590 | 6.2% |
| KERN | 354,400 | 319,500 | 34,900 | 9.9% |
| KINGS | 58,900 | 52,300 | 6,600 | 11.2% |
| LAKE | 25,290 | 22,650 | 2,640 | 10.4% |
| LASSEN | 13,460 | 12,050 | 1,410 | 10.5% |
| LOS ANGELES | 4,917,200 | 4,621,200 | 296,000 | 6.0% |
| MADERA | 64,800 | 58,700 | 6,100 | 9.4% |
| MARIN | 137,300 | 131,800 | 5,500 | 4.0% |
| MARIPOSA | 8,920 | 8,140 | 780 | 8.7% |
| MENDOCINO | 43,560 | 40,420 | 3,140 | 7.2% |
| MERCED | 104,700 | 90,800 | 13,900 | 13.3% |
| MODOC | 3,830 | 3,380 | 450 | 11.8% |
| MONO | 9,270 | 8,860 | 410 | 4.4% |
| MONTEREY | 203,600 | 179,700 | 23,900 | 11.7% |
| NAPA | 72,800 | 69,000 | 3,800 | 5.3% |
| NEVADA | 51,110 | 47,970 | 3,140 | 6.2% |
| ORANGE | 1,633,000 | 1,561,400 | 71,600 | 4.4% |
| PLACER | 176,400 | 166,000 | 10,400 | 5.9% |
| PLUMAS | 10,450 | 9,110 | 1,340 | 12.8% |
| RIVERSIDE | 916,200 | 852,000 | 64,200 | 7.0% |
| SACRAMENTO | 697,500 | 653,300 | 44,200 | 6.3% |
| SAN BENITO | 26,100 | 23,400 | 2,700 | 10.5% |
| SAN BERNARDINO | 889,700 | 833,400 | 56,300 | 6.3% |
| SAN DIEGO | 1,545,100 | 1,466,300 | 78,800 | 5.1% |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 437,000 | 416,600 | 20,400 | 4.7% |
| SAN JOAQUIN | 300,700 | 270,600 | 30,100 | 10.0% |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO | 136,900 | 130,100 | 6,800 | 5.0% |
| SAN MATEO | 382,500 | 366,800 | 15,700 | 4.1% |
| SANTA BARBARA | 214,200 | 202,600 | 11,600 | 5.4% |
| SANTA CLARA | 861,800 | 817,500 | 44,300 | 5.1% |
| SANTA CRUZ | 148,700 | 136,500 | 12,200 | 8.2% |
| SHASTA | 86,900 | 78,200 | 8,700 | 10.0% |
| SIERRA | 1,710 | 1,490 | 220 | 13.0% |
| SISKIYOU | 19,190 | 16,790 | 2,400 | 12.5% |
| SOLANO | 211,600 | 198,200 | 13,400 | 6.3% |
| SONOMA | 264,200 | 250,600 | 13,600 | 5.2% |
| STANISLAUS | 232,200 | 207,100 | 25,100 | 10.8% |
| SUTTER | 42,900 | 37,700 | 5,200 | 12.1% |
| TEHAMA | 25,560 | 23,190 | 2,370 | 9.3% |
| TRINITY | 5,100 | 4,390 | 710 | 14.0% |
| TULARE | 195,800 | 173,500 | 22,300 | 11.4% |
| TUOLUMNE | 26,630 | 24,430 | 2,200 | 8.3% |
| VENTURA | 427,100 | 401,900 | 25,200 | 5.9% |
| YOLO | 98,700 | 91,000 | 7,700 | 7.8% |
| YUBA | 28,200 | 24,800 | 3,400 | 12.0% |